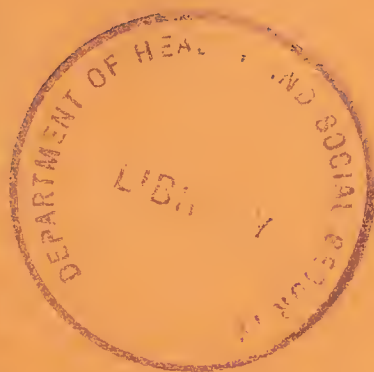


THE
Thurrock Urban District Council



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

TOGETHER WITH THE REPORTS OF THE

Chief Public Health Inspector

and the Public Analyst

For the Year 1969

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Thurrock Urban District Council



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GRAYS
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1970

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MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

(as at 31st December, 1969)

Chairman: R. E. ROBERTSON

Leading Councillor: Mrs. E. A. WHALLEY

Councillors: A. F. BARNES

A. A. W. BENNETT

M. D. CROZIER

V. CUNLIFFE, S.R.N., M.R.I.P.H.H.

D. DESMEDT, A.M.B.I.M., M.I.W.M.

A. P. FITZMAURICE

Mrs. M. G. MAHONY

T. PRICE

J. I. PURDIE

Mrs. D. J. WRIGHT

URBAN DISTRICT OF THURROCK
PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health:

T. D. BLOTT, B.SC., M.B., B.S.(DUR.), D.P.H., Barrister at Law
 The Medical Officer of Health is also Area Medical Officer for the
 Thurrock Division of the County of Essex

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

G. P. MERSON, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

H. A. GOSLING, F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I. (1, 2, 3) (Retired June, 1969)
 J. M. ANDERSON, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I. (1, 2, 3) (Appointed June, 1969)

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector :

D. G. STRIPP, M.A.P.H.I. (1, 2, 3) (Appointed June, 1969)

Senior District Public Health Inspector:

M. H. YOUNG (1, 2, 3) (Appointed June, 1969)

Public Health Inspectors :

T. B. NUTTALL, M.A.P.H.I. (1, 2, 3)
 A. G. BRIMBLE (1, 2)
 L. H. ASH (1, 2)
 G. R. DOVEY, M.A.P.H.I. (1, 2, 3)
 J. FOSTER (1, 2, 3)
 J. W. MALTON (4)
 E. PHILBIN (1, 2)
 M. ELLIOTT (4) (Appointed August, 1969)

(1) Indicates Certificate: R.S.I. and S.I. Exam. Jt.Bd.
 (2) Indicates Certificate: Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.
 (3) Indicates Certificate: Smoke Inspection.
 (4) Diploma: Public Health Inspectors' Education Board.

Public Analyst :

THOS. McLACHLAN, A.C.G.F.C., F.R.I.C.

Veterinary Officer (Part-time)

E. DIXON, B.SC., M.R.C.V.S.

Clerical Assistant—Public Health Department :

Mrs. P. M. HARLEY

Chief Clerk—Chief Public Health Inspector's Department :

S. V. EDWARDS

Trainee Public Health Inspectors :

R. ALBON, T. LEVER, G. POYTON (Appointed August, 1969)

Clerical Assistants—Chief Public Health Inspector's Department :

R. PARTRIDGE (Resigned October, 1969)

J. P. GOODRICK (Appointed October, 1969)

Mrs. E. BROWNE, Mrs. E. CLAYDEN, Mrs. H. M. WARD

Mrs. L. SPINDLEY (To April, 1969)

Rodent Officer: M. KNIGHT*Rodent Operatives:*

B. A. BEAUMONT (Appointed January, 1969); C. CHAMBERLAIN (Appointed April, 1969—Resigned August, 1969); R. WAGSTAFF (Resigned March, 1969); E. E. LOCK (Appointed August, 1969)

Mortuary Attendants: E. C. WHITBREAD, R. W. LENNIE

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
THURROCK URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present, herewith, my fifth Annual Report on the health of the district for the year 1969.

This year has been notable for the testing out of the Council's services for dealing with infectious diseases. A case of typhoid occurred in Stanford-le-Hope in a passenger returning from Australia. The volume of work involved in supervision can be judged from the appendix written by the Health Inspector responsible and it is clear that both he and his Department showed that they were well capable of dealing with this type of problem. This gives me confidence should we have similar outbreaks in the future.

An opportunity also occurred owing to the death of a professional person suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis, to institute a joint operation to screen a large proportion of the community. Here, again, the arrangements made stood the strain and it is due to the splendid help that we received from the Mass X-ray Mobile

Unit and the staff of the local health authorities office with the invaluable advice and help of the Chest Physician at Thurrock Hospital that the public were able to be reassured that there was no further risk. The number of persons chests examined amounted to more than 951.

An outbreak of a peculiar infectious illness in Tilbury, thought at first to be infective hepatitis, was subject to detailed investigation by doctors and staff from the Royal Free Hospital in London. This involved very close co-operation between the hospital staff and the local health visitors. The 100% support given by the members of the public involved showed that where there is a good relation between the local health services and the public, the control and investigation of disease is possible in a manner unthought of ten years ago. It is possible where this good relationship exists to begin investigations into a number of epidemiological problems which for too long we have accepted with complacency as being part of the normal pattern of life.

It would be giving a false picture of the position in Thurrock to ignore the large amount of discussion about pending changes in the health services. This has had an unsettling effect on health staff not only as to their own futures but as to the appropriate steps to be taken to ensure that the services will be carried on in the future as well and better than they have been in the past. Once the staff know what they have to do then they will train their colleagues on how best to do it. The continuing uncertainty is undoubtedly harmful.

During the year the concern of the public with drugs appears to have waned although the problem itself appears to be as large as ever. There is also a growing awareness that more must be done for the mentally sick. In the past these unfortunate persons have been ostracised by many in the community, although now the majority of the public are anxious to help, realizing the value of community therapy. The machinery for channelling the services available is cumbersome and in many cases ineffective. I hope that in the re-organised health services there will be much more emphasis laid on preventative measures towards mental health.

Each year more and more people in Thurrock are taking an active part in helping me in my duties. I am particularly indebted to my Chairman, to the Chief Public Health Inspector of Thurrock and his staff and to the support I have received from the Members of the Health Committee and, indeed, all the Members of the Council.

I am, Your obedient servant,

T. D. BLOTT, *Medical Officer of Health.*

Public Health Department, 34 Cresthill Avenue, Grays, Essex.
Telephone: Grays Thurrock 4641/4.

SECTION "A"

Land Area of the District (in Acres)	42,000
Population (Registrar-General's Estimated Mid-Year 1969)	124,830
No. of Inhabited Houses or Flats (according to Rate Books as at 31.12.69)	37,188
Rateable Value (at 31.3.69)	£8,234,893
Product of a 1d. Rate (at 31.3.69)	£33,890

The Urban District of Thurrock stretches along the northern bank of the River Thames, having approximately 18 miles of river frontage. The area adjoining the river is industrial and contains two of the chief centres of population — Grays and Tilbury.

The principal industries are the manufacture of cement, margarine, cardboard, footwear, detergents, nitric acid and chemical fertilisers. In addition there are the oil refineries at Coryton and Shell Haven, the oil storage undertakings at Thames Haven, Grays and Purfleet and the docks at Tilbury.

Inland, the principal occupation is agriculture and the district includes many market gardens and dairy farms, although the number of dairy farms seems to be diminishing as the years go on.

A large number of the inhabitants travel daily to work in London.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS	Thurrock Urban District	England and Wales
Live Births:		
Number—(1,140 Males, 994 Females) ...	2,134	797,542
Rate per 1,000 estimated } Crude ...	17.1	16.3
Mid-Year Home Population } (Adjusted) ...	16.9	16.3
Illegitimate Live Births percentage of total Live Births	6	8

DEATHS

Thurrock
Urban District England
and Wales

Total Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year):

Number—(28 males, 16 Females) ... 44 14,397

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births 21 18

Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate
Live Births ... 19 17

Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegiti-
mate Live Births ... 51 25

Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under four
weeks) (21 Males, 11 Females) per 1,000
total Live Births ... 15 12

Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under
one week) (18 Males, 7 Females) per 1,000
total Live Births ... 12 10

Perinatal mortality rate (still births and
deaths under one week combined) per
1,000 total live and stillbirths ... 21 23

All Causes:

Number—(549 Males, 429 Females) ... 978 579,463

Death rate per 1,000 estimated } (Crude) 7.8 11.9

Mid-Year Home population } (Adjusted) 11.3 11.9

SECTION "B"

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

The staff of the Public Health Department has been enumerated at the commencement of this Report.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The Pathological Laboratory facilities are provided as in the past years by the N.E. Metropolitan Hospital Regional Board and whilst the main Laboratory is situated in Billericay at St. Andrew's Hospital, good facilities exist at Orsett Hospital in the area. In addition the area is served by the Public Health Laboratory at Southend-on-Sea where all examinations of milk, water, ice-cream, etc., are carried out. Biological examination of milk is undertaken at the Public Health Laboratory, London Road, Chelmsford. Virus investigations are also carried out by the Director of the Public Health Laboratory at Chelmsford. These Public Health Laboratories are administered by the Medical Research Council.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The ambulance service is administered centrally and is the responsibility of the Essex County Council.

		Thurrock Station	Corringham Station
Ambulance Vehicles	...	3	1
Sitting Case Vehicles	...	3	—
Dual Purpose Vehicles	...	3	—
Total Cases Conveyed	...	40,947	4,075
Stretcher Cases	...	2,297	785
Other Cases	...	38,650	3,290
Total Mileage	... ..	179,086	42,111
Total Emergency Cases	...	2,263	811

SERVICES PROVIDED BY ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL HEALTH SERVICES

PROVISION OF NURSING APPLIANCES IN THE HOME.

On application articles of equipment for the patients in their homes are supplied. Such articles include bedrests, bedpans, bed cradles, commodes, mattresses, wheelchairs in and out-door type,

air cushions, air rings, walking aids, etc. The main depot for distribution is at Whitehall Lodge, Whitehall Lane, Grays. Nursing equipment on loan for the sick does not include specialised equipment for the permanently disabled.

HOSPITAL SERVICES are provided by the North East Metropolitan Hospital Regional Board.

There is a large modern hospital at Orsett and, in addition, a hospital at Thurrock, specialising largely with diseases of the chest and tuberculosis.

The Special Clinic continues to operate in the curtilage of the now closed Tilbury and Riverside General Hospital.

MOBILE MEALS.

The Women's Royal Voluntary Service have a limited distribution of meals on certain days upon application. The Local Authority made an annual grant of £690 towards this service. I am indebted to Mrs. K. Smith, Centre Organiser, for the following information.

Grays Area:—

No. of meals distributed ...	7,537
Approximate mileage ...	3,850

Stanford-le-Hope Area:—

No. of meals distributed ...	6,218
Approximate mileage ...	3,075

Aveley Area:—

No. of meals distributed ...	4,427
Approximate mileage ...	1,810

Meals are delivered in Grays, Aveley and Stanford-le-Hope two days per week.

CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

CLINIC PREMISES.

On the following pages will be found a list of the clinics serving Thurrock which includes the Health Centre which was extended in July making conditions very much more comfortable for the staff and patients. In March, 1969, a new purpose-built clinic was opened in Corringham.

ANTE-NATAL AND POST-NATAL CLINICS.

Ante-natal Clinic sessions were held during 1969 in six of the premises. The Midwives sessions are held mainly for booking patients for home confinements.

CHILD HEALTH

There are 14 Centres in Thurrock where Child Health Sessions are held at which mothers attend to discuss their problems with the Health Visitors and Medical Officers.

DISTRIBUTION OF WELFARE FOODS, MEDICAMENTS & NUTRIENTS.

The Ministry welfare foods and proprietary brands of medicaments and nutrients were distributed at the Child Health Sessions and, in addition, so far as the Ministry of Food items are concerned, voluntary distributors continue to provide this service for mothers in areas not easily accessible to the Child Health Clinics.

DAY NURSERIES.

The two Day Nurseries in the Area, one at Palmer's Avenue in Grays and the other in London Road, West Thurrock, each catering for 30 places, continue to accept children mainly in the priority groups mentioned below:—

Priority (1)—Children of sole wage-earners—i.e., widow, widower, a parent separated, divorced or deserted, unmarried mother, mother working on account of father's chronic illness.

Priority (2)—Admissions recommended by Area Medical Officers for medical reasons, including cases arising from socio-economic circumstances irrespective of whether the mothers are in employment.

Priority (3)—Children of mothers in employment highly essential to communal services, subject in each case to the approval of the Chairman or the Vice-Chairman of the Health Area Sub-Committee.

The total attendances are given below with the attendances for previous years in brackets. The Nurseries were open for 255 days in the year.

	1966	1967	1968	1969
March Quarter	(3162)	(3506)	(3530)	3014
June Quarter	(3635)	(3745)	(3167)	2994
September Quarter	(3659)	(3502)	(3107)	2780
December Quarter	(3659)	(3447)	(2944)	3088
Total	(13871)	(14200)	(12747)	11876

MIDWIFERY AND HOME NURSING SERVICE.

Due to some Midwives leaving and the appointment of new applicants, approximately 17 Domiciliary Midwives were employed during 1969.

During the year, Domiciliary Midwives attended 771 Births and a total of 668 mothers were discharged early from Hospital before the 10th day. The total of Domiciliary Births does NOT include the number of cases booked and ante-natalled at home who had, for obstetric reasons, to terminate in Hospital and cases actually booked for home confinement exceeded 1,000 during this year.

A total of 20,247 Ante-Natal and Post-Natal visits were made by the Midwives during 1969. This total does not include deliveries or attendances at Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinics by the Midwives. A grand total of 55,138 Nursing visits to 'sick patients' were made by the Home Nursing Staff.

TRAINING OF PUPIL/MIDWIVES.

34 Pupil Midwives completed their training in this District and a further Pupil commenced her District Training in 1969.

DELEGATION SCHEME FOR THE ATTACHMENT OF DOMICILIARY MIDWIVES AND HOME NURSES TO GENERAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONER GROUP PRACTICES.

The delegation scheme continues to offer a satisfactory service to the public and appears to be much appreciated by both patients and doctors and also by the staff concerned.

NURSERIES AND CHILD MINDERS REGULATIONS ACT, 1948 (as amended).

The number of persons and premises registered under the Act at the end of 1969 was as follows :

No. of persons registered	31
No. of premises registered	25

At the end of the year there were 744 children being cared for. As previously, the Superintendent Health Visitor has inspected the premises and explained and discussed the standards required. The Chief Fire Officer has assisted in making an inspection to ascertain the need for fire precautions. Those in charge of the Nurseries and indeed the Child Minders generally were required to undergo a chest x-ray examination before a certificate of registration could be issued. Regular visits are made by the Health Visitors to the registered premises. There is no Daily Guardian Scheme in operation in the area. Most of the Daily Minders have now completed courses held by the Thurrock Technical College on the needs of the pre-school child.

B.C.G. VACCINATION.

1,146 schoolchildren received routine B.C.G. vaccinations during the year.

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS—CARE AND AFTER CARE

RECUPERATIVE HOLIDAYS.

36 persons went away on recuperative holidays where either general practitioners and/or hospital consultants so recommended.

CERVICAL CYTOLOGICAL SMEAR TESTS.

During 1969, 106 sessions were held at Health Services Clinics in Thurrock for the taking of Cervical Cytological smears. 1,147 first tests and 325 repeat tests were carried out of which only 3 were found to be positive. At the end of 1969 there was a waiting list of approximately 120.

EXTRA NOURISHMENT.

Arrangements whereby patients suffering from chest complaints can receive a pint of milk per day, without charge, on the recommendation of the Chest Physician continued during the year there being 64 people receiving free milk at the end of 1969. 17 new cases having been recommended during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS VISITING.

The Tuberculosis Visitors made 555 visits during the year and there was also 730 first examinations of contacts and 792 subsequent examinations of contacts.

CHIROPODY.

The treatment given at our clinics continues to be limited in scope by the shortage of qualified staff, at the end of the year there being only 1.4 Chiropodists engaged out of an establishment of 3. However, it was still possible to include the Welfare Department premises in the programme of visits at Bennett Lodge and Leatherland Lodge where the full-time Chiropodist was able to attend monthly. Treatments carried out during the year were 3,195 at clinics, 1,890 domiciliary and 371 at Welfare Homes.

HEALTH EDUCATION.

Education in health matters has been practised informally by the Thurrock Health Visitors in their day to day work in the homes, clinics and schools. On a more formal basis displays on health subjects have been put on at the purpose built clinics and the Aveley Health Centre and over 100 films have been shown throughout the area. Talks and lectures have been given at Orsett, Tilbury, Billericay and Harold Wood Hospitals, Thurrock Technical College, Schools, Mothers' Clubs, Women's Associations, Old Aged Pensioners' Clubs and various Youth Clubs. Two Health Visitors have prepared students for the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

Since September, 1969, it has been possible to extend the Health Education programme to five more schools.

Classes on education for childbirth have been held throughout the area and where the premises have been suitable "Fathers' Classes" have been included.

An "over 40" exercise course is in operation at Grays North Clinic.

In addition to arranging public health practical experience for student nurses and student Health Visitors, the Health Visitors have catered for the needs in this field of students from many other disciplines.

HOME HELP SERVICE.

The total number of cases provided with help during the year was 1,309 and the total number of hours worked by the whole-time equivalent of 70 helps was 159,689.

There was a considerable diminution of hours of help during 1969 owing to continued financial stringency, but where help was needed in the homes this was given and as far as is known no undue hardship ensued.

SCHOOL POPULATION.

The school population for Thurrock including Special Schools at the end of the year was 19,810.

SPEECH THERAPY.

The position with regard to Speech Therapy in the Division remains acute. The only time given to treatment is two sessions per week, the third session being devoted to school visits or clerical work relating to case histories. The long waiting list increases.

THURROCK HEALTH AREA CLINICS

District	Clinic	Type of Sessions Held
Aveley	Health Services Clinic, Hall Lane, Aveley	Ante-natal Cervical Cytology Child Health Chiropody Immunisation and Vaccination School Clinics Preparation for Childbirth Classes
	The Health Centre, Darenth Lane, South Ockendon	Cervical Cytology Child Health Chiropody Dental Immunisation and Vaccination Preparation for Childbirth Classes School Clinics Family Planning (run by Family Planning Assoc.)
Bulphan	Village Hall, Bulphan	Child Health Chiropody

District	Clinic	Type of Sessions Held
Chadwell-St.-Mary	Health Services Clinic, River View, Chadwell-St.-Mary	Ante-natal Cervical Cytology Child Health Chiropody Immunisation and Vaccination Preparation for Childbirth Classes School Clinic
Corringham	Health Services Clinic, Giffords Cross Road, Corringham	Cervical Cytology Child Health Chiropody Geriatric Clinic Immunisation and Vaccination Preparation for Childbirth Classes School Clinic Family Planning (run by Family Planning Assoc.)
East Tilbury	"Rheidovale," Princess Margaret Rd. East Tilbury	Child Health Preparation for Childbirth Classes
Fobbing	Gardner Hall	Child Health
Grays	Health Services Clinic, The Park, Grays	Ante-natal Cervical Cytology Child Health Immunisation and Vaccination Midwives' Ante-natal Preparation for Childbirth Classes School Clinic
	Health Services Clinic, Long Lane, Grays	Ante-natal Child Health Immunisation and Vaccination Chiropody Preparation for Childbirth Classes Post-natal Exercise Classes School Clinic Speech Therapy
	Glasson House Clinic, Off High Street, Grays	Chiropody Dental Ophthalmology

District	Clinic	Type of Sessions Held
Horndon-on-the-Hill	Community Hall, High Road, Horndon-on-the-Hill	Child Health Immunisation and Vaccination School Clinic
Linford	Village Hall, Linford	Post-natal Exercise Classes
Purfleet and West Thurrock	Health Services Clinic, London Road, West Thurrock	Ante-natal Child Health Immunisation and Vaccination Preparation for Childbirth Classes School Clinic
South Ockendon	Health Services Clinic, 107 South Road, South Ockendon	Ante-natal Cervical Cytology Child Health Chiropody Immunisation and Vaccination Preparation for Childbirth Classes School Clinic
Stanford-le-Hope	Health Services Clinic, Wharf Road, Stanford-le-Hope	Ante-natal Child Health Dental Immunisation and Vaccination Cervical Cytology Mothers' Club Preparation for Childbirth Classes School Clinic
Tilbury	Health Services Clinic, London Road, Tilbury	Ante-natal Cervical Cytology Child Health Chiropody Dental Immunisation and Vaccination Preparation for Childbirth Classes School Clinic Health Seminars for Mothers

HOUSING.

The Council have 11,448 Council Houses and in addition the former London County Council, East Ham Borough Council and West Ham Borough Council have built estates. Despite this there still remains a total number of 4,145 upon the waiting list for houses. The allocation of Thurrock Council Houses is dealt with upon a points scheme and the Medical Officer of Health recommends extra points upon medical evidence submitted on behalf of the patients. During the year under review 484 cases were investigated and points awarded.

MEDICAL EXAMINATION OF MANUAL STAFF.

The Medical Officer of Health medically examines entrants to the Council's Service and deals with medical questions arising in regard to examinations as to the fitness of an employee to remain in the Council's Service.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 (SECTION 47)

No action was taken during the year under the above Act.

DISPOSAL OF THE DEAD.

The South Essex Crematorium situated over the boundary of the district at Corbets Tey is carried on with the London Borough of Havering. The Medical Officers of Health of the constituent authorities act as Medical Referees and during the year the remains of 2,501 persons were disposed of.

CO-OPERATION WITH THE CITY AND PORT OF LONDON.

The Urban District of Thurrock contains Tilbury Docks, into which an enormous amount of shipping arrives and an Assistant Medical Officer of the Essex County Health Service working in the Thurrock district acts as Boarding Officer.

PUBLIC MORTUARY SERVICE.

262 deaths were reported to H.M. Coroner, Dr. Charles Clark. The total number of inquests held was 38 after a post-mortem in each case. There were 13 road accidents, 9 industrial accidents, 16 other causes.

In 1969, 60% of the Coroner's cases were cremated as compared with 25% three years ago.

Orsett Hospital carried out 89 post-mortems and Grays Mortuary 151. Three were performed elsewhere.

SECTION "C"

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS
AND OTHER DISEASES.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

DISEASE		Notified	Confirmed	Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	...	37	37	I	—
Dysentery	...	21	I	3	—
Infective Hepatitis	...	82	82	9	—
Whooping Cough	...	5	5	—	—
Measles	...	307	307	—	—
Food Poisoning	...	77	2	I	—
Meningococcal Infection	...	2	2	2	—
Typhoid	...	I	I	I	—
Tetanus	...	I	I	I	I
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	2	2	2	—

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE INCIDENCE ACCORDING TO
AGE GROUPS.

DISEASE	Under 1 year	1-2 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	5-9 yrs.	10-14 yrs.	15-24 yrs.	25 yrs. over	Total
Scarlet Fever ...	—	4	6	24	1	2	—	37
Infective Hepatitis ...	—	1	5	18	9	30	19	82
Dysentery ...	5	1	1	—	2	3	9	21
Whooping Cough ...	—	2	2	1	—	—	—	5
Measles ...	9	66	86	141	3	2	1	307
Food Poisoning ...	5	4	6	3	3	19	37	77
Meningococcal Infection ...	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	2
Encephalitis ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Tetanus ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Typhoid ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1

FOOD POISONING, &C.

Notifications of Food Poisoning showed an increase over the year although in all but two cases the diagnosis was not confirmed on bacteriological examination.

This is to be expected since cases of diarrhoea and vomiting are often notified as Suspected Food Poisoning. This practice is a desirable one as a precaution in spreading excremental infections particularly by food handlers. Faecal specimens are taken from each case of food poisoning or dysentery where food handlers are involved, either as patients or contacts. If the result is positive three negative specimens must be obtained before the patient or contact is permitted to engage in the handling of food. Specimens are examined at the Public Health Laboratory at Westcliff-on-Sea.

No outbreaks of food poisoning or dysentery occurred during the year although the department was involved in an outbreak of typhoid which is described in this report.

During the year 10 persons were excluded from work.

The following table shows the number of faecal specimens or throat swabs submitted by the department during the year.

Taken From	Total	Negative	Positive			
			Staph. Aureus	Shig. Sonnei	Sal. Typhi- murium	Sal. Bran- denburgh
Food Handlers	11	10	1	—	—	—
Non-Food Handlers	10	8	—	1	—	1

TYPHOID

REPORT ON A CASE IN THURROCK URBAN DISTRICT

NOVEMBER, 1969

On Monday, the 17th November, 1969, the Department was notified that a young man of 20 years had been admitted to Rush Green Hospital, Romford, the previous Friday, suspected as a case of Typhoid Fever.

Enquiries made from the patient's parents revealed that he arrived in England on the 23rd October, 1969, docking at South-

ampton on the "Angelina Lauro." The patient had been in Australia and New Zealand for the past eighteen months. During the first nine days after arriving home, visits were made to sundry relatives and friends in the Thurrock Urban District. On the 10th day (2nd November) symptoms developed and a visit was made to the general practitioner's surgery the following morning. The patient spent the next week at home, his condition generally deteriorating. On the 10th November a further visit was made to the general practitioner, who confined the patient to bed. At this time no notification was made to the Medical Officer of Health of the occurrence of an infectious disease. The general practitioner again saw the patient at his home and immediate arrangements were made for his admission to hospital, where *S. typhi* was subsequently isolated. It will be seen, therefore, that the patient was home during the first twelve days of his illness, prior to admission to hospital.

The patient's symptoms were as follows:—

Pyrexia; vomiting; profuse diarrhoea; back pains; delirium; headache; blood in urine.

The difficulties involved in following-up a case of this nature becomes apparent when it is understood that the patient was removed from the district and the hospital authorities stated he was too ill to be questioned. His parents are elderly and were not familiar with their son's activities during the first 9 days he was at home.

The shipping company were contacted and informed of the case in Thurrock. At that time they were unaware of any Typhoid arising from passengers arriving at Southampton on the 23rd October, 1969, on the "Angelina Lauro" but immediate steps were taken to investigate the matter and a Telex message was sent to the ship which was en route back to Australia. Information was obtained from the company that the ship docked for a few hours at Capetown on the 10th October, 1969, and at Tenerife on the 19th October. A number of passengers went ashore at both ports of call. It was established that the patient had gone ashore on both occasions and had eaten a meal at both ports but was unable to give information as to the premises.

Further cases developed over the country from the ex passengers of this ship with widely differing incubation periods. It was later established that 22 persons developed Typhoid Fever, some of which were secondary cases.

After much activity and diligence on the part of Thurrock's Public Health Inspectors, 78 contacts of the case (involving over 1,500 visits) were established and on the advice of the Medical Officer of Health surveillance was carried out for a period of 42 days.

Every contact was told to report to his general practitioner should any of the symptoms develop and the general practitioners were notified of those contacts in their particular practices. 22 of these contacts were employed in the food trade and measures had to be taken to ensure that they were free from infection.

It was felt that as long as the contacts developed no fever the possibility of their developing Typhoid would be extremely remote, nevertheless close surveillance was exercised. With regard to the food handlers, more stringent precautionary measures were felt justified and accordingly three consecutive faeces and urine specimens were taken. All the specimens were negative to *S. typhi*.

Terminal fumigation was carried out of the patient's bedroom, particularly as the profuse diarrhoea had caused fouling of the flooring. Swabs were then taken of the floor which also proved to be negative to *S. typhi*. Swabs were also taken at the drain outlet of a local laundry which had dealt, unknowingly, with some of the patient's clothing, but this also gave negative results.

A point of special interest concerns the patient's parents, who are elderly and were nursing a highly infectious Typhoid patient unknowingly. In view of the fouling of clothing and bedding, etc., their contact was considerable and secondary cases therefrom were anticipated. However, although concern arose at one stage they happily did not develop the disease.

In an endeavour to establish whether or not the parents had developed an immunity, a blood sample was taken from each of the parents and submitted for a Widal Agglutination test. The results showed no agglutination to the H and O agglutinin although the father did show a titre of 1:80 to salmonella para typhi BH.

This test illustrates the fact that Typhoid Fever is not readily contracted by personal direct contact. Of far greater importance in the spread of the disease is the contamination of foodstuffs by an unsuspecting case or carrier.

Fortunately the patient recovered and no secondary cases occurred in Thurrock making the work involved in tracing and following up contacts abortive. However, such background work is essential and would have become invaluable should secondary cases have developed.

In view of the carrier rate of Typhoid Fever, and the interchange of peoples of many countries, it seems that the time has come when it should be made a requirement of all persons entering the food trade to submit themselves to bacteriological examination to ensure that they are free from highly infectious conditions.

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY

Age periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Resp'ry		Respiratory		Non-Resp'ry	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2-4 yrs.	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5-9 „	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
10-14 „	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
15-19 „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20-24 „	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-34 „	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35-44 „	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-54 „	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-64 „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65-74 „	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
75 upwards	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	14	6	2	2	—	—	—	—

VENEREAL DISEASES

Year ending 31st Deember, 1969

SPECIAL CLINIC, TILBURY, ESSEX

ANNUAL RETURN OF MALE NEW CASES FOR 1969

Local Health Authority area of residence of patient	Number of new cases in the year				
	Totals all venereal conditions	Syphilis		Gonor- rhea	Other venereal conditions
		Primary and Secondary	Other		
Seamen	16	11	5		
Other areas	1	1			
Seamen	57			57	
Local	11			11	
Other Areas	1			1	
Seamen	353				353
Local	166				166
Other Areas	11				11
Total	616	12	5	69	530

VENEREAL DISEASES

Year ending 31st Deember, 1969

SPECIAL CLINIC, TILBURY, ESSEX

ANNUAL RETURN OF FEMALE NEW CASES FOR 1969

Local Health Authority area of residence of patient	Number of new cases in the year				
	Totals all venereal conditions	Syphilis		Gonor- rhea	Other venereal condition
		Primary and Secondary	Other		
Other Areas	1	1			
Local	7			7	
Ship's Personnel	2				2
Local	93				93
Other Areas	2				2
Totals	105	1	—	7	97

Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector

SECTION "D"

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY.

The principal water supply of the area is provided by South Essex Waterworks Company, the vast majority of the premises in the district being served thereby. A small part of the area at Langdon Hills is served by the Southend Waterworks Company.

The water supply has been satisfactory in quality and quantity throughout the year and is not liable to plumbo-solvent action.

No. of samples taken and submitted for bacteriological examination: —

(a) From Public Mains	...	...	...	9
(b) From Wells, etc.	...	...	...	2

No. of samples taken and submitted for chemical examination: —

(a) From Public Mains	...	...	...	3
(b) From Wells	...	...	...	Nil

All samples from the public mains were satisfactory both chemically and bacteriologically.

The two bacteriological samples from wells showed the presence of coliforms and faecal coli.

Difficulty has been experienced in connecting certain houses on well water supply to mains due to the remoteness of their situation. In cases where such water is found to be unsatisfactory, the occupiers are advised to boil the water and in one case the installation of a small treatment plant is being considered.

No. of dwellinghouses supplied from public water mains direct	...	...	37,161
Estimated population served	...	...	124,742
No. of houses supplied from public water mains supplied by standpipes	..	..	20
Estimated population served	...	...	70
No. of houses served by wells or stored rainwater	...	...	7
Estimated population served	...	...	28

Those properties supplied by standpipes refer to premises forming part of the Dunton Hills Estate. The laying of water mains would be very expensive and moreover, it is thought that some of the land will revert to agriculture in the not too distant future.

The seven houses supplied by wells are situated in the more remote rural portion of the area where the cost of providing a mains supply is prohibitive. In addition there is one well at one of the oil refineries, the water from which is used for drinking and domestic purposes.

METEOROLOGICAL DETAILS.

Total amount of rain which fell during the year	17.3 ins.
Number of days on which rain fell	93
Heaviest rainfall on any one day (August 2nd)...	1.83 ins.
No. of hours of sunshine	1,227

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The reconstruction of the Purfleet Trunk sewer and the temporary Surface Water Overflow from Hollowfield Road were completed during the year. Flooding of the Hollowfield Road area has been a continual problem since the completion of the development and it is hoped that the problem has been alleviated by the construction of surface water overflow.

Work has commenced on the extension to the Stanford-le-Hope Sewage Disposal Works and the Orsett Village Sewerage Scheme. At Marsh Farm the provision of new screens in the screening chamber is proceeding.

The heavy rainfalls of 1968 were not repeated during the year and severe flooding in Thurrock was not experienced.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The principal river in the area is the Thames, on the north bank of which the Thurrock Urban District stands. In addition, the Mardyke rises above Bulphan and Orsett Fens and discharges into the Thames at Aveley. There are in addition, various small tidal streams which also discharge into the Thames.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

There were 790 cesspools and 380 pail closets in the area at the close of the year.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

This is the function of a separate department of the Council. The pilot scheme of paper sack collection has operated satisfactorily on the Greater London Council Estate at South Ockendon but no extension of the scheme is contemplated in the near future.

Household dustbins are emptied weekly and disposed of at sites at South Ockendon and Linford. Pail closets are emptied weekly.

During the year the Cleansing Department installed bulk refuse containers for the use of the public in various parts of the district. This was carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Civic Amenities Act, 1967, and the principle is a good one. However, like many good intentions it has run into difficulties due to the mis-use of the containers by members of the public. Refuse accumulates around the refuse containers even when they are half empty. Scavenging takes place on the sites attended by the usual scattering of refuse.

The Cleansing Department has spent much time and effort into putting this scheme into operation and it is to be hoped that it will not be spoilt by mis-use.

REFUSE TIPS.

The Essex County Council (Canvey Island Approaches, etc.) Act, 1967, has enabled local authorities to exercise closer control over refuse tips by means of conditions laid down when consent is given to make a deposit of refuse.

The situation at Little Belhus refuse tip—that “festering sore” referred to in last year’s report has altered considerably during the year under review. The tipping rights were acquired by a large firm engaged in the disposal of industrial waste. Extensive site works were undertaken before tipping operations began and finally the Greater London Council began to deposit refuse on the site. The quantities are so great that the face of the site has changed rapidly and the area of water which was always a potential danger has diminished considerably. It is gratifying to see that the day when this trouble spot will be filled has been brought nearer.

Seven refuse tips were in operation at the close of the year—South Ockendon (2), Aveley (1), Linford (1), West Thurrock (1), East Tilbury (1) and Mucking (1).

SWIMMING BATHS.

There are within the area, ten swimming baths as follows:—

Public	....	....	....	....	...	1
Private	...	...	...	...	...	2
Schools	...	...	...	.	...	7

The public bath at Blackshots Playing Field, which was opened in 1964, continues to prove a popular addition to the facilities in the area.

The Teaching Pool at Blackshots Swimming Pool was completed during the year but after a very short time defects were found and the pool had to be closed down for repairs.

The two private baths are situated upon premises of large industrial undertakings. They are of the open-air type and are provided with continuous circulatory filtration and chlorination units.

Of the seven school baths, three are of the "indoor" type with continuous circulatory filtration and chlorination units. The remaining are "outdoor" baths open only during the summer and are mainly for tuition purposes—the cost of which was met largely by voluntary subscription. Although these are fitted with circulatory and chlorination units, they are of more elementary design and close supervision is necessary if a satisfactory water is to be maintained.

The total number of samples taken during the year was 55. One was unsatisfactory due to the swimming bath being out of use and the plant shut off.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

The one common lodging house in the area was still operating to some extent at the end of the year under review.

It will be demolished when the Grays South Redevelopment Scheme becomes operative.

AIR POLLUTION.

The industrial plants which come under the control of this local authority generally speaking do not give rise to complaint.

The factory in West Thurrock engaged in the manufacture of lightweight concrete blocks continued to give rise to complaint of smell during the year. The installation of a catalytic plant which removed the hydrogen sulphide causing the smell, has gone much of the way towards alleviating this nuisance. Any complaints which have arisen since the installation of this plant have been due to leakage before passing through it.

Complaints continued to be received in the summer regarding the offensive smell from the Council's Sewage Disposal Works at Marsh Farm, West Tilbury. The deoderant barrier spray which was installed does not appear to be the final solution to this problem.

Complaints of low level dust nuisance were received regarding a factory in Little Thurrock engaged in prefabricated cement block manufacture. This was alleged to be due to the unloading from lorries of pulverised fuel dust which is a constituent of the process. A cover was erected at the unloading point and since then no further complaints have been received.

ALKALI, ETC. WORKS.

The following works are now under the control of the Alkali Works Inspector who works very closely with the officers of the Council.

Cement Production	...	...	...	...	4
Synthetic Detergent Plant (bisulphite section)					1
Oil Refining, etc.	...	...	...	...	4
Electricity Production		...	...	...	3
Nitric Acid Production		...	...	...	2
Recovery of non-ferrous Metals			...	...	1
Ammonia	...	...	...	...	2
Chemical Manure	...	...	...	...	1
Acid Sludge	...	...	...	...	1

There is no doubt that the industry which causes the most public complaint is the cement manufacturing industry.

The public concern is undoubtedly justified. No amount of pronouncements by technical officers regarding the reduction of dust burden will satisfy the citizen of the area when he sees physical evidence of heavy dust fall-out on his car, and the paintwork and windows of his house.

The problem of pollution from dust as in other forms of air pollution is one of economy.

Electrical precipitators cost a great deal of money and once installed the industry requires an economic life from them. More frequent renewal would no doubt have effect on dust fall-out but who would pay the price? Ministry grant is available for the control of domestic smoke and one wonders if the same facility could not be extended to industry.

INSTALLATION OF FURNACES AND CHIMNEYS.

(1) No. of notifications of construction of new furnaces	...	9
(a) Coal Fired	...	Nil
(b) Oil Fired	...	9
(c) Gas Fired	...	Nil

(2) No. of applications for Prior Approval	...	...	4
No. Granted	...	...	4

SMOKE CONTROL.

A steady progress is being maintained in the smoke control programme. A sixth Order was confirmed by the Minister in November of this year and the date of operation is 1st July, 1969.

Particulars of areas under smoke control are as follows:—

Area	...	...	...	...	4,636 acres
No. of Dwellinghouses	...	...	...	...	11,765
No. of Shops	...	...	...	...	131
No. of Schools	...	...	...	...	20
No. of Industrial Premises	...	...	...	...	19
No. of Miscellaneous Premises	...	...	...	...	31

31.6% of the dwelling houses in Thurrock are now under Smoke Control Orders.

The seventh Smoke Control Order was confirmed in November but subsequently information was received from the solid fuel distributors that supplies were not likely to be adequate enough to extend the smoke control programme.

After a thorough investigation of the circumstances the Council resolved to postpone the date of operation until April, 1971.

The increase in use of natural gas reduces supplies of the smokeless fuel which once were bye-products of the production of gas from coal. The production of other forms of smokeless fuel is not coping with the demand and the future of smoke control programmes does not look promising. This is a regrettable situation to have to face 14 years after the Clean Air Act, 1956, which authorised the making of Smoke Control areas.

The situation is made even more ironic by the coming into operation of the new Clean Air Act, 1968, which prohibits the sale by retail of non-authorised fuels for delivery in smoke control areas. Many coal merchants can with justice say "Where is the authorised fuel?"

MEASURING INSTRUMENTS.

An additional standard deposit gauge was installed at West Thurrock Day Nursery in February. As might be expected, the average annual readings at this site have been 10 to 20 tons per square mile per month more than in other areas. Residents of West Thurrock may not be at all surprised at this information.

The readings from these gauges for the year are as follows :—

1969 Month	Tons per square mile						W. Thurrock Day Nursery Site	
	Drums Site		Kenningtons School Site		Ward Avenue Site		Solids Cement	
	Solids	Cement	Solids	Cement	Solids	Cement	Solids	Cement
							Recordings	
January	29.44	15.05	30.93	15.98	27.42	18.63	Com. 1/2/69	
February	30.06	9.85	17.58	2.62	22.89	7.35	37.4	24.85
March	27.52	7.57	15.22	0.68	21.68	7.42	27.68	17.5
April	†	†	14.19	2.68	‡	‡	30.62	21.69
May	43.15	16.92	21.82	7.98	29.88	16.18	44.77	33.67
June	17.69	6.67	14.85	4.36	16.7	6.66	26.59	19.43
July	33.08	13.92	26.69	3.16	26.94	11.21	54.63	34.14
August	35.22	10.55	19.55	3.46	37.03	13.68	28.98	22.38
September	18.78	7.41	11.09	3.02	15.61	5.34	30.72	19.15
October	25.85	13.08	21.15	11.77	28.54	15.38	38.62	26.77
November	42.85	23.69	32.23	12.38	40.3	25.69	62.23	37.3
December	31.92	13.38	18.15	5.0	24.69	6.85	58.85	39.23

† No figures—Bottle taken from site.

‡ No figures—Bottle contaminated by soil.

Ave. 1969	30.51	12.55	20.29	6.09	26.52	12.22	40.09	26.92
Ave. 1968	27.99	11.98	18.48	12.82	27.06	13.04	—	—
Ave. 1967	31.5	—	21.3	—	32.4	—	—	—
Ave. 1966	31.49	—	18.65	—	28.96	—	—	—
Ave. 1965	36.64	—	19.04	—	30.87	—	—	—
Ave. 1964	31.93	—	18.74	—	29.15	—	—	—

N.B.—West Thurrock came into use 1st February, 1969

Four deposit gauges are maintained by the Council and the monthly results are forwarded to the Thameside Joint Committee for the Abatement of Atmospheric Pollution.

The readings from these instruments were as follows:—

Mth.	GRAYS			BELHUS			STANFORD-LE-HOPE			WEST THURROCK		
	Smoke	S.O ₂	Micrograms/cu.M./Air	Ratio S/S.O ₂	Smoke	S.O ₂	Micrograms/cu.M./Air	Ratio S/S.O ₂	Smoke	S.O ₂	Micrograms/cu.M./Air	Ratio S/S.O ₂
1969												
Jan.	101.2	153.2	0.66	0.55	67.5	123.6	82.6	147.8	0.56	80.6	159.5	0.51
Feb.	146	173.7	0.84	0.36	57.5	158.3	99.6	161.6	0.62	155.3	226.2	0.69
Mar.	76.5	98.6	0.78	0.41	46.4	112.6	59.0	117.7	0.50	86	131.6	0.65
April	57.1	89.3	0.63	0.32	24	76	44.5	104.4	0.43	63.3	134.3	0.47
May	42.2	68.5	0.62	0.31	22.8	71	24.6	98.8	0.25	53.1	95.6	0.56
June	37.8	55.1	0.68	0.21	11.3	54.2	13.2	55.0	0.24	17.7	71.2	0.25
July	47.5	90.2	0.53	0.23	24.2	103.8	20.7	71.6	0.29	54.4	151.5	0.36
Aug.	39.4	54.4	0.72	0.30	23.8	80.2	21.0	67.2	0.31	56.0	114.2	0.49
Sept.	40.8	56.9	0.72	0.40	22.6	56.8	27.0	56.3	0.48	67.6	99	0.68
Oct.	77.5	93.9	0.83	0.40	43.7	107	47.6	111.7	0.43	72.6	99.3	0.73
Nov.	89	135	0.65	0.45	51.6	114.6	63.0	110.2	0.57	61.1	136.2	0.45
Dec.	110.7	174.0	0.64	0.47	68.7	172.7	72.3	142.6	0.50	78.7	156.0	0.50
Ave.:												
1969	72.1	103.6	0.69	0.38	38.7	102.5	57.8	103.7	0.56	70.5	139.5	0.51
1968	58.7	98.5	0.59	0.47	35.5	75.3	35.6	89.0	0.40	50.9	87.3	0.57
1967	78	125	0.62	0.45	44	98	50	92	0.54	68	102	0.67
1966	65	109	0.60	0.47	43	91	50	92	0.54	69	87	0.79
1965	87	121	0.72	0.51	58	113	61	105	0.58	80	107	0.75
1964	103	131	0.78	0.56	69	124	80	123	0.62	126	164	0.77
1963	105	117	0.90	0.56	65	115	—	—	—	—	—	—

RODENT CONTROL.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

The Rodent Control section of the department consists of the Rodent Officer and 2 Rodent Operatives. This section deals with the routine control of rodents and all complaints which may arise.

The Council's sewers and sewage works are regularly treated. Problems have arisen in the elimination of mice during the year under review. It was found that a breed of mice had developed which were resistant to Warfarin. Indeed it was suspected that they thrived on it. It was necessary to resort to the use of zinc phosphide for mice infestations.

The following table shows the work of the Rodent Staff during the year: —

	Local Authority Premises	Dwelling Houses (including Council Houses)	All Other Premises	TOTAL
1. Number of properties inspected as a result of:				
(a) Notification ...	32	684	127	843
(b) Survey under the Act ...	11	—	1	12
(c) Otherwise ...	—	—	—	—
2. Number of properties inspected (in Sec. 1) which were found to be infested by:				
(a) Rats } Major ...	5	1	1	7
} Minor ...	20	394	67	481
(b) Mice } Major ...	—	—	1	1
} Minor ...	4	242	50	299
3. Total treatments carried out incl. retreatments ...	38	673	108	819

DISINFESTATION AND DISINFECTION.

The department provides a service to occupiers of premises for the elimination of pests other than those regarded as vermin. These include earwigs, wasps and ants and are dealt with by either the sale of appropriate insecticides or as in the case with wasps nests by disinfestation by the rodent staff for which a charge is made.

During the year 63 wasps nests were treated. This is a massive increase on last year and the work entailed made some encroachment on the rodent section's normal work.

The clearance of drains was undertaken at a charge of 10/- (until 1st July, 1969, when the charge was increased to 15/-) where possible, but again it is felt it should not be taken on to such an extent as to act to the detriment of the primary task of rodent control. It is often forgotten that in the case of private drains the responsibility for maintenance is entirely on the owner of the property.

During 1969, 18 rooms were fumigated following infectious disease and bedding was removed for steam disinfection in one case, 183 drains were cleared and 19 tests were applied.

SCRAP METAL DEALERS.

The Scrap Metal Dealers Act, 1964, came into operation on 1st April, 1965, and requires all scrap metal dealers to be registered with the local authority.

The number of dealers now registered is 29.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

The number of licences to keep Pet Shops issued during the year was 6.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.

No premises in the area are registered under the above mentioned Act.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOODS) ORDER, 1957.

The Essex County Council have delegated to this Council their functions in connection with the licensing of boiling plants for animal food.

It has been observed that the powers under this legislation are rather limited and in a specific case which had been referred to this department by the Divisional Veterinary Officer, this fact was brought to his notice. He indicated that a decision had been made to amend the legislation.

16 plants were licensed during the year.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1963.

This Act requires establishments used for the boarding of cats or dogs to be licensed annually by the local authority.

The Council employs a qualified Veterinary Officer on a part-time basis to make periodic inspections of all establishments and to submit a report prior to applications for licences being considered. In addition routine inspections are made during the year.

During 1969, 5 establishment were licensed by the Council.

RIDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1964.

This Act requires Riding Establishments to be licensed annually by the local authority.

The Veterinary Officer dealing with Animal Boarding Establishments has been appointed for the purpose of the inspection and licensing of these establishments.

During 1969, 2 establishments were licensed by the Council.

There were 2 refusals. One was subsequently passed as satisfactory after conditions had improved and was one of the 2 licences issued. The remaining unsuccessful applicant withdrew his application.

NIGHTDRESSES (SAFETY) REGULATIONS, 1967.

No samples of children's nightdresses were taken during the year. It has been found that nightdresses made from materials which do not comply with the regulations have disappeared from retail premises. There yet remains the danger arising from home-made nightdresses of inflammable materials. This is a hazard against which it would be difficult to legislate.

During the year a case arose of a second-hand dealer selling nightdresses which did not comply with the legislation. These nightdresses were obtained from a jumble collection organisation. After an informal approach the nightdresses were withdrawn from sale.

TOYS (SAFETY) REGULATIONS, 1967.

These were also made under the Consumer Protection Act, 1961, and came into operation on 1st November, 1967. They prescribe the amount of lead and other toxic metals which may be present in the paint on such toys.

4 samples were taken, all were satisfactory.

NOISE ABATEMENT.

Noise from barking dogs accounted for many of the complaints of nuisance from noise which were received. These were from

kennels and commercial premises using guard dogs. It has been found impossible for inspectors to establish a nuisance in these cases and it is the Council's policy to advise complainants to take legal action themselves.

Other complaints were :—

Noise from ventilation fans on chicken farm.

Noisy neighbours.

Compressor motor on works site.

General factory noise.

Noise from Go-Kart Track.

In the case of the Go-Kart Track, some attempt has been made to reduce the noise level by erecting baffle walls and the machines are equipped with regulation silencers. However, as long as such activities are carried on in close proximity to residential areas, there is always a possibility of complaint of noise.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTION OF THE AREA						VISITS
Atmospheric Pollution	...	...	...	...	...	1,378
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	29
Caravans	...	...	...	...	...	611
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	...	...	7
Dairies and Milk Shops	...	...	...	...	...	20
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	1,151
Dwellinghouses	...	...	...	...	...	4,612
Factories (Mechanical)	...	...	...	...	...	297
Factories (Non-Mechanical)	...	...	...	...	...	9
Food Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	244
Food Preparation Premises (Hygiene)	...	...	...	...	...	397
Food Shops Inspection (Hygiene)	...	...	...	...	...	965
Food Vehicles and Stalls	...	...	...	...	...	60
Hackney Carriages	...	...	...	...	...	2
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	34
Improvement Areas (Compulsory)	...	...	...	...	...	269
Improvement Grants (Standard)	...	...	...	...	...	374
Improvement Grants (Discretionary)	...	...	...	...	...	354
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	634
Licensed Premises (Hygiene)	...	...	...	...	...	171
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	1,368
Meat Inspection	...	...	...	...	...	511

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTION OF THE AREA							VISITS
Noise	...	...	...	...	...	...	173
Outworkers	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act:							
Offices	...	...	...	...	...	...	103
Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	719
Wholesale Premises and Warehouses						...	11
Catering Establishments			...	...	...	...	168
Staff Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Fuel Storage Depots	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Pet Animals, Boarding and Riding Establishments							26
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	...	...	212
Refuse Tips and Accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,265
Sampling: Food and Drugs			...	...	...	...	334
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	171
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	434
Swimming Bath			...	...	...	...	56
Mains Water	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Well Water	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
School Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	...	136
Shops Act, 1950 (Records and Hours)	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Smoke Control	...	...	...	...	...	...	470
Stables and Pigsties			...	...	...	...	28
Verminous Premises			...	...	...	...	127
Waste Food Order			...	...	...	...	28
Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
Works Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	...	77
Work Places	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Toy Samples	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

HEALTH EDUCATION.

Talks have been given to schools and various organisations in the area on the work of the Public Health Inspector.

The course for food handlers at Thurrock Technical College has not been run for some years due to lack of support.

SECTION "E"

HOUSING

NEW HOUSES.

No. of new dwellings erected during the year:—

By local authority	...	...	...	...	316
By other local authorities	...	...	...	...	300
By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	...	522

INSPECTION OF DWELLINGHOUSES.

1. (a)	Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	2,394
(b)	Number of inspections/re-inspections made for that purpose	4,612
2. (a)	Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head 1) inspected under Housing Acts	1,306
(b)	Number of inspections/re-inspections made for that purpose	2,048
3.	Number of dwellinghouses found to be unfit for human habitation, and not capable at a reasonable expense of being rendered fit (excluding Clearance Areas)	13
4.	Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those above) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	420

REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority and their Officers	207
---	-----	-----	-----	-----

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

(A)	<i>Housing Act, 1957—Section 9</i>	...	...	...	4
(B)	<i>Public Health Act, 1936.</i>				
(i)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring matters to be remedied	...	...	...	6
(ii)	Number of dwellinghouses in which matters were remedied after service of formal notices				
(a)	By owners	...	...	...	5
(b)	By local authority in default of owner	...			Nil
(C)	<i>Sections 16 and 23, Housing Act, 1957.</i>				
(i)	Number of houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	17

(ii) Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	3
In addition 4 houses were demolished by informal action.					
(iii) Number of houses in respect of which undertakings not to use for human habitation were accepted	...	...	...	...	Nil
(iv) Number of houses in respect of which undertakings to render fit were accepted	...	...	...	...	1
(D) <i>Sections 17 and 18, Housing Act, 1957.</i>					
(i) No. of houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	3
(ii) Number of houses closed	...	...	...	...	2
(iii) Parts of Building closed	...	...	...	...	Nil
(iv) Closing Orders Determined	...	...	...	...	4

IMPROVEMENT OF DWELLINGHOUSES.

The Housing Act, 1969, came into operation in August, 1969. The procedure for achieving the improvement has been changed. The power to make compulsory improvement areas has been withdrawn. The new concept of General Improvement Areas has taken its place. A local authority may define an area and by resolution declare it to be a general improvement area. In order to secure the improvement of the area the Council may do one or all of the following :

- (1) Carry out work on their own land and assist private owners by means of grants or loans to improve their properties.
- (2) Acquire land by agreement.
- (3) Let or otherwise dispose of land for the time being owned by them.

It is intended that much of the work of improvement should be achieved by persuading the owners of private property to take advantage of the generous grants available for such improvements.

Up to £1,000—£1,200 is now available under approved circumstances.

The Local Authority may acquire properties by compulsion if owners cannot be persuaded to carry out improvements, but this procedure will not be lightly embarked upon. Improvement areas should become an exercise in public relations rather than enforcement.

It is the policy of the department to make a complete inspection of the property when an initial enquiry is made regarding grant. Although this involves a considerable amount of work on detailed inspection it does provide detailed information to the intending applicant and obviates possible future rejection of an

application due to improperly submitted applications. This procedure brings an increase in the time spent on housing work by the public health inspectors to the detriment of other public health work.

SLUM CLEARANCE.

Eighteen Demolition Orders and three Closing Orders were made during the year.

One undertaking not to relet until the house was repaired was accepted.

The five year slum clearance programme was completed on 31st December, 1969. During the period ending 1973 it is expected to deal with something like 160 houses by way of clearance and demolition orders. This programme in conjunction with redevelopment schemes should dispose of Thurrock's slum property.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

1. No. of Applications received:—

(a) For Discretionary Grants under the Housing Acts, 1959-64	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
(b) For Improvement Grants under the Housing Act, 1969								46
(c) Combined Improvement Grant and Qualification Certificate under the Housing Act, 1969 (included in (b))								
above	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
(d) For Standard Grants under the Housing Acts, 1959/64								55
(e) For Standard Grants under the Housing Act, 1969	...							13
(f) For Combined Standard Grant and Qualification Certificate under the Housing Act, 1969 (included in (e))								
above	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

2. No. of Notices of Approval issued:—

(a) For Improvement Grants (under the Housing Act, 1969)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
(b) For Discretionary Grants (under the Housing Acts, 1959/64)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
(c) For Standard Grants (under the Housing Act, 1969)								3
(d) For Standard Grants (under the Housing Acts, 1959/64)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	45

IMPROVEMENT OF DWELLINGHOUSES.

One last area was brought into operation in 1969 involving 26 houses, 25 of which required improvement and 17 being tenanted. 4 applications under section 19 of the Housing Act, 1964, were received from tenants.

The position at the end of 1969 can be summed up in the following table:—

Improvement Area	TOTAL NUMBER OF DWELLINGS		COMPULSORY IMPROVEMENT (Tenanted Property)						VOLUNTARY IMPROVEMENT (Owner/Occupied Property)
	Fully Improved	Needing Improvement	Suspended Notices Served	Immediate Improvement Notices Served	Final Improvement Notices Served	Purchase Notices	Under-takings Given	Dwellings Improved Since Area Declared	
No. 1	127	143	23	32	Nil	13	3	22	16
No. 2	3	35	12	23	Nil	—	Nil	Nil	Not Applicable
No. 3	239	90	5	12	Nil	1	Nil	2	4
No. 4	7	12	7	5	Nil	—	Nil	Nil	Not Applicable
No. 5	138	175	36	24	2	12	Nil	4	6
No. 6	1	25	4	5	1	5	1	Nil	1
INDIVIDUAL APPLICATIONS	—	28	Not Applicable	23	Not Applicable	6	1	4	Not Applicable

VERMINOUS PREMISES.

During the year 111 rooms were disinfested for vermin, i.e., fleas, bugs and cockroaches.

In addition, 23 other disinfestations were carried out involving mosquitoes, bees, maggots, etc.

Such disinfestations are usually carried out by the use of a liquid insecticide with a residual effect or by the use of insecticidal powder. A charge of 15/- per room is made.

OVERCROWDING.

During the year 37 visits were made in connection with complaints of overcrowding. Where overcrowding was established, the matter was referred to the Housing Department and if the family concerned were applicants for a Council house an allowance can be made in the "Points" Scheme.

In this connection a greater degree of priority is given to those cases in which overcrowding arises from natural increase in the family.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

During the year gipsies or "travellers" have not frequented the area in such numbers as has been experienced in the past.

Only the occasional two or three caravans have been found.

At the end of the year there were 28 caravans on the unauthorised caravan site at West Thurrock. The Council has now abandoned its intention to provide a site for the caravans of itinerant industrial workers and the occupiers of caravans at the unauthorised sites at West Thurrock and East Tilbury will eventually be rehoused by this Council and the site run down in this way.

The position in Thurrock regarding properly licensed sites is as follows:—

- | | |
|---|---|
| (1) No. of cases during the year in which a site licence was granted | 4 |
| (2) Total number of licensed sites | 5 |

Of the 5 licensed sites, 4 are in respect of one caravan only. The remaining site is the caravan site at Corringham consisting of 20 standings.

COMPLAINTS RECEIVED.

During the year 1,941 complaints were received from residents within the Urban District. Every effort is made to deal with such complaints on the day of receipt.

SECTION "F"

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION
OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1961

PART I OF THE ACT

1 — INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

PREMISES (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of inspec- tions (3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities...	16	9	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	350	297	6	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ...	—	—	—	—
Total ...	366	306	6	—

2 — Cases in which DEFECTS were found:

PARTICULARS (1)	Number of cases in which defects were				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1) ...	8	4	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7):—					
(a) Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or Defective	6	5	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	14	9	—	—	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORKERS

There are two employers of outworkers as defined in Section 133 of the Act, in this area.

A register of outworkers resident in the district is kept, the number so registered being 69.

SECTION "G"

SHOPS AND OFFICES

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

Shops Act, 1950.

Shops (Early Closing) Days Act, 1965.

Young Persons (Employment) Acts, 1938-64.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.

CLOSING ORDERS.

- (1) Grays Thurrock — Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 7 p.m.
Friday, 8 p.m. Saturday, 9 p.m.

Art needlework Dealers, Bakers, Boot and Shoe Merchants, Butchers, Chemists, China and Glass Merchants, Corn Merchants, Dairymen, Drapers, Furnishers, Gentlemen's Outfitters, Ironmongers and Hardware Merchants, Jewellers, Oil and Colour Merchants, Photographers, Sewing Machine Agents and Stationers.

- (2) North and South Stifford, West and Little Thurrock.
Tobacconists — Weekdays, 9.30 p.m. Saturday, 10 p.m.

Sunday Trading Exemptions.

Parts of Grays (Old High Street from Market Place to Grays Beach).

Photographic requisites. Sale of articles for bathing or fishing, toys, souvenirs, fancy goods, books, stationery, photographs, reproductions & postcards.

SHOPS ACTS, 1950—1965.

30 visits were carried out resulting in the service of 2 written notices.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

This Act came into operation on 31st July, 1963. Its provisions enable local authorities to exercise control over the working conditions in shops and offices. It is probably one of the most "circularised" pieces of legislation with which public health inspectors have had to deal. Almost every aspect of the Act has been dealt with by means of a Ministry Circular and there should be no complaint regarding lack of guidance from above.

The following orders came into force during the year on the dates recorded.

January 1st, 1969—Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963 (Exemption No. 7) Order, 1968.

May 28th, 1969—Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963 (Hoists and Lifts) Regulations, 1968.

May 28th, 1969—Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963 (Hoists and Lifts) Reports Order, 1968.

Registrations and General Inspections:

Premises	Registra- tions dur- ing 1969	Total No. of Registered Premises	First Inspect'ns in 1969
Offices	11	173	57
Retail Shops	27	571	300
Wholesale Shops and Warehouses ...	1	11	5
Catering Establishments & Canteens	3	93	28
Fuel Storage Depots	—	2	—

Total number of inspections and re-inspections during the year was 1,025.

Analysis of Persons Employed in Registered Premises.

Class of Premises	No. of Persons Employed
Offices	3,329
Retail Shops	3,032
Wholesale Dept. Warehouses ...	162
Catering Establishments ...	622
Canteens	231
Fuel Storage Depots	9
	<hr/>
TOTAL	7,385
	<hr/>
Males	3,474
Females	3,911

Analysis of Contraventions.

Section	Number of Contraventions Found
4 Cleanliness	3
5 Overcrowding	—
6 Temperature	27
7 Ventilation	4
8 Lighting	10
9 Sanitary Conveniences ...	68
10 Washing Facilities	9
11 Supply of Drinking Water ...	—
12 Clothing Accommodation ...	—
13 Sitting Facilities	—
14 Seats (Sedentary Workers) ...	—

Section	Number of Contraventions Found				
15	Eating Facilities	...	...	...	1
16	Floors, Passages and stairs	...	...	...	40
17	Fencing of Exposed Parts of Machinery	...	...	...	5
18	Protection of Young Persons from Dangerous Machinery	...	...	...	—
19	Training of Young Persons Working at Dangerous Machinery	...	...	...	—
20	Maintenance of Hoists and Lifts	...	...	...	3
22	Prohibition of Heavy Work	...	...	...	—
24	First Aid	...	...	...	53
	Other Matters	...	...	...	63
					—
TOTAL					286
					—

Exemptions.

No applications for exemptions were made during the year.

Regulations.

Regulations regarding lighting, ventilation, cleanliness and facilities for the drying of clothing have not yet been made by the Minister but a circular has been issued which gives guidance to local authorities for the purpose of enforcing Section 8 relating to lighting.

Accidents.

The Act requires that the enforcing authority be notified forthwith of any accident occurring on the premises which

(a) causes the death of a person employed to work on the premises

or

(b) disables any such person for more than three days.

29 accidents were notified during the year, an increase of 5 on the previous year.

The accidents were mainly of a minor nature and no legal proceedings were taken.

There was only one contravention revealed on investigation. This was an infringement of section 23 which prohibits any person from being required to lift, carry or move a load so heavy as to be likely to cause injury. The matter was dealt with by a warning letter.

The majority of accidents arose from falls and the use of hand tools, particularly knives. An element of carelessness on the part of the employees was revealed in many cases.

The injuries caused by machinery were due to improper use rather than lack of proper guards.

REPORTED ACCIDENTS, 1968

Primary cause	Nature of Injury										
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)
		Fractures and Dis-locations	Sprains and Strains	Internal Injury	Ampu-tations	Open Wounds Bruising, and Crushing Surface and Con-cussion Injury	Burns	Multiple Injuries of a Different Nature	Other Injuries	TOTAL	
Machinery (power and non-power)	...	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	3	
Transport	...	1	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	5	
Falls of persons	...	1	4	—	—	1	1	—	—	7	
Stepping on or striking against object or person	...	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	3	
Handling goods (not other-wise specified)	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
Struck by falling object	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
Fires and explosions...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Due to electricity	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Use of hand tools	...	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	7	
Not otherwise specified	...	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	
Total	...	3	8	—	1	12	5	—	—	29	

Notices Served.

Details of Requirements made under the Act during the year are as follows :—

Requirement	Number
Cleanse and tidy premises	3
Provide thermometer	26
Provide adequate means of heating	1
Provide adequate ventilation	3
Provide adequate lighting to work areas	10
Cleanse and/or redecorate W.C.	63
Provide intervening ventilated space to W.C.	1
Provide hand washing facilities	9
Mark sanitary accommodation for sexes	5
Provide staff meal facilities	1
Provide and fix staircase handrail	2
Repair paving and steps	5
Repair or renew staircase	7
Repair or renew floors	19
Guard machinery	5
Provide lift gates and/or indicate safe working load	3
Provide first aid box	52
Provide means of disposal of sanitary dressings	1
Repair window	9
Register premises	19
Provide copy of "Abstract of the Act"	35
Remove obstructions	7

SECTION "H"

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

DAIRIES.

There are within the area 6 dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959. No processing of milk takes place on any of these premises—they are simply distribution depots.

There are 11 dairy farms in the district and, with the exception of two farms, all milk produced is sent to pasteurising plants. The two farms selling untreated milk are registered by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

RETAIL MILK SHOPS.

During the year licences for the sale of designated milk have been issued in respect of 142 shop premises. These licences are issued under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1963, for the sale of designated milk as follows:

(a)	Dealers (Prepacked)	for Untreated Milk	...	14
(b)	„	„ „ Pasteurised Milk	...	96
(c)	„	„ „ Sterilised Milk	...	118
(d)	„	„ „ Ultra Heat Treated Milk		8

MILK SAMPLES.

(a) *Bacteriological.*

As there are no pasteurising plants within the Urban District, the sampling of milk is restricted to one sample per week of each processor's milk retailed in the area.

The following tables show the number of samples taken and the results obtained: —

GRADE	No. Taken	Phosphatase Test		Methylene Blue Test		
		Passed	Failed	Passed	Void	Failed
Pasteurised	191	191	—	182	3	6

It will be noted that of the 191 samples of pasteurised milk taken, 3 failed the methylene blue test. This indicates that the milk was not in a fresh condition. In each case the matter was taken up with the retailer and processor although it is difficult to come to any firm conclusions on these failures.

(b) *Biological.*

Of the 11 milk producing farms in the area only 2 have producer/retailer licences to sell untreated milk to the public. The previous policy of the department has been to take two samples annually from every milk producing farm, but in conformity with the practice of other Food and Drugs Authorities in Essex, this was changed during the year to the monthly sampling only from those farms selling untreated milk to the consumer.

24 batch samples were submitted for biological examination for the determining of mycobacterium tuberculosis and the class of organisms responsible for Brucellosis. All samples were negative to Tuberculosis but arising from preliminary screening for *Brucella abortus* a further 316 samples were taken from individual cows, 27 of which were positive to *Brucella abortus* following pure culture or guinea pig inoculation. Reactors from one producer/retailer farm were involved and all milk from this farm is now pasteurised.

No legal powers exist enabling a local authority to ask for the removal of positive Brucellosis reactors from a herd, although the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food anticipate launching a scheme in the near future as a preliminary to an eradication scheme similar to the one which operates so successfully for Tuberculosis.

Nevertheless in those instances where a cow is proved to be excreting the organism of Brucellosis, the farmer is notified and, in his own interest, will often remove the offending animal from the herd. In any event, where herds are found to contain cows positive to direct culture or guinea pig inoculation, measures are taken to ensure that all milk produced is subjected to pasteurisation, thus ensuring the destruction of the organism and rendering the milk safe.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There are two licensed slaughterhouses in the district—a position that has remained unchanged for some years—and both are in regular use.

KNACKERS' YARDS.

There are no licensed Knackers' Yards in the area.

MEAT INSPECTION.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Goats
Number killed } Number inspected }	2202	2	6	3941	4422	—
<i>All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	1	—	2	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	444	1	—	73	408	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis and cysticerci ...	20.16	50	16.66	1.85	9.23	—
<i>Tuberculosis Only</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	68	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	—	—	—	—	1.54	—
<i>Cysticercosis</i>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	27	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted for treat- ment by refrigeration ...	18	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally con- demned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of number in- spected affected with Cysticercosis ...	1.23	—	—	—	—	—

The total number of animals slaughtered during the year was 10,573 as compared with 11,671 during 1968. The decrease has arisen due to the discontinuance of a contract at one slaughterhouse for Mohammedan killing.

As in past years, 100% meat inspection has been maintained throughout the year by the District Public Health Inspectors on a routine basis.

The quality of meat passing through both slaughterhouses is good, although it will be noted that the incidence of *Cysticercus bovis* has continued to rise again this year.

As in previous years, the hours of slaughtering are controlled by the Meat Inspection (Amendment) Regulations, 1966. The operation of this control works well and appears to create no undue hardship to the slaughterhouse proprietors.

The slaughter of animals at both slaughterhouses is limited to not more than 10 hours daily up to 6 p.m.—Monday to Friday. In addition one slaughterhouse is allowed up to 12 noon on Saturdays.

MEAT CONDEMNED.

The weight of meat (including offal) condemned in both slaughterhouses during the year amounts to 9,125 lbs.

SLAUGHTERMEN.

The number of slaughtermen licensed in accordance with the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958, is 7.

VOLUNTARY SURRENDER OF UNSOUND FOOD.

Commodity	cwts.	qtrs.	lbs
1,829 Tins Fruit	16	1	2
900 „ Meat	10	2	18
1,956 „ Vegetables	22	2	12
46 „ Soup	—	1	9
492 „ Fish	3	5	20
34 „ Milk Pudding	—	1	2
179 „ Fruit Juice	—	5	19
139 „ Milk and Cream	—	3	6
Imported Beef Kidney	—	1	12
Imported Liver	—	3	7
Chickens (Frozen)	3	3	9
Beef	—	3	6
Wet Fish	—	3	16
Biscuits and Cereals	3	3	25
Bacon	—	1	2
Ox Heart and Tails	—	5	15

Commodity	cwts.	qtrs.	lbs.
Lamb	6	1	—
Cheese	3	—	10
Tea	28	—	4
Cooked Turkey and Chicken	2	—	18
Soft Drinks	—	—	5
Gravey Salt	—	—	9
Pigs Plucks	—	—	5
Loin of Pork	—	—	22
9,473 Pkts. Frozen Foods			
TOTAL	109	0	1

The amount of frozen food surrendered during the year continues to increase and arises from refrigerator breakdowns of one cause or another. A number of breakdowns occurred at the premises of Catering Suppliers whose stock is considerably larger than the average retail shop.

The tea was damaged by sea water.

All condemned food is collected by the department and disposed of on the Council's Refuse Tip under supervision.

ICE-CREAM SAMPLES.

143 samples of ice cream were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination, with the following results:

<i>Ministry of Health's Provisional Grade</i>				<i>No. of Samples</i>
Grade I	...	...	...	128
Grade II	...	...	...	8
Grade III	...	...	...	7
Grade IV	...	...	...	—

22 Ice Lolly samples were taken and all were satisfactory.

The standard of ice-cream sold within the area throughout the year is set out below: —

Producer	Total Samples	I	II	III	IV
A	70	66	3	1	—
B	54	51	3	—	—
*C	9	6	—	3	—
D	3	2	—	1	—
*E	2	1	—	1	—
*F	1	1	—	—	—
G	1	1	—	—	—
H	1	—	1	—	—
I	1	—	1	—	—
J	1	—	—	1	—
TOTAL	143	128	8	7	—

*Producers C, E and F are situate within the Urban District. The remaining producers manufacture outside the area but retail ice-cream within the district.

The results af 12 samples taken from producers within the area are as follows :

				Thurrock Producers		
				C	E	F
No. of Samples	...	...	...	9	2	1
Percentage of Grade I Samples	...			66.66	50	100
Percentage of Grade I and II Samples				66.66	50	Nil
Percentage of Grade III Samples	...			33.33	50	Nil
Percentage of Grade IV Samples	...			Nil	Nil	Nil

These results are satisfactory and are indicative of a good standard of hygiene.

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1960.

During the year 1,628 inspections and re-inspections were made to food shops, cafes, schools and factory canteens.

Details of requirements made under the Regulations are as follows: —

REQUIREMENTS	NUMBER
Repair and/or redecorate walls/ceiling	124
Cleanse or renew equipment	36
Provide suitably covered refuse containers	23
Protect food and containers from risk of contamination	17
Display "Wash Your Hands" Notices	38
Repair shop floor covering	30
Provide accommodation for outdoor clothing	3
Provide suitable storage facilities	8
Provide soap, towels and nailbrushes	32
Provide or renew sinks	26
Repair doors	4
Repair/renew wall tiles	27
Repair roofs	4
Maintain improved standard of cleanliness	4
Renew defective internal surfaces of food stores and refrigerators	11
Provide/repair/cleanse shelves or working surfaces	18
Comply with Storage of Food Regulations (Temperature)	1

No prosecutions were taken during the year for contraventions of these Regulations.

TRADE	No. of Premises	No. of Premises fitted to comply with Reg. 16	No. of Premises to which Reg. 19 applies	No. of Premises fitted to comply with Reg. 19
Butchers	66	66	66	66
Grocery & Provision Merchants	108	108	106	108
Fruiterers & Greengrocers	63	63	63	63
Fishmongers (incl.) Fish Fryers	32	32	32	32
Sugar Confectionery	83	83	78	78
Flour Confectionery	31	31	31	31
Bakehouses	11	11	11	11
Cafes & Restaurants	76	76	76	76
Works Canteens	68	68	68	68
School Canteens	60	60	60	60
Licensed Premises	79	79	79	79
Clubs	51	51	51	51
Dairies	6	6	6	6
General Stores incl. Supermarkets	59	59	59	59

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955—Section 16.

336 premises are currently registered under the above section for :

- (a) the preparation or manufacture of sausages, potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale;
- or,
- (b) the sale, manufacture or storage of ice cream.

FOOD COMPLAINTS.

The number of food complaints made to the department during 1969 reached a record number of 71 and are classified as follows :—

Food not unfit	Dirty Milk Bottle	Foreign Bodies in Milk	Insects in Food	Foreign Bodies in Food	Decomposition or stale Food	Mouldy Food	Miscellaneous
5	8	8	10	17	9	12	2

The increase in the number of complaints reflects the increasing tendency of the public to bring the department's attention to the condition of the food they buy. Provided complaints are not frivolous, this trend is welcomed as it has always been my contention that public reaction to bad practices in food trade achieves much in improved standards. It is to be regretted that, quite often, a complainant is not prepared to give evidence as to purchase in any legal proceedings. This attitude makes legal proceedings impracticable even if gross negligence is apparent.

The summer of 1969 was exceptionally hot and obviously was responsible for the complaint of mould growth, decomposition and, to some extent, insects in food. The warmer weather demonstrated the need to pay greater attention to stock rotation and the shelf life of the various products.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

Two prosecutions were taken by the Council as follows:—

(1) Chicken and Ham Pie (decomposition)—Fined £25.

(2) Fish Cakes (sour)—Fined £20.

In addition to the above two cases, four complaints of dirty milk bottles related to bottling plants outside the area of the Council and were referred to the local authority responsible. Prosecutions were taken in two cases and conviction obtained.

The problem of dirty milk bottles is one of continual concern. In fairness to the milk producers, it must be said that modern bottle washing equipment will ensure the sterility of bottles passing through it, but will not necessarily remove material adhering to the bottle following mis-use.

As has been stated previously, the replacement of the returnable glass bottle by a disposable container appears to be the only effective solution.

IMPORTED FOOD REGULATIONS, 1968.

The Container Base at Orsett was due to commence operations in March, 1969, but due to labour disputes failed to open during the year.

Report of the Public Analyst

During the year 1969, 342 articles of food and drugs were examined. Of these, 70 were taken formally, 262 informally, and 10 were submitted as complaints.

The number adulterated or about which some adverse comment was made was 22. The incidence of criticisms may be classified as follows:—

		<i>Number of samples examined</i>	<i>Number of samples adulterated, etc.</i>
Milk	...	48	—
Other Foods	...	252	20
Drugs	...	42	2

A full cream evaporated milk was found to be slightly deficient in fat, containing only 8.9 per cent of milk fat whereas the minimum requirement is 9 per cent, and it was suggested that the manufacturers attention should be drawn to this.

Bread formed the subject of three complaints. One loaf contained black material consisting of gear oil contaminated with iron, another was badly attacked by moulds, and the third had been sliced whilst it was hot with a rather blunt knife with the result that crumbs of crust had been enclosed in between the various slices of bread.

A packet of golden bread crumbs showed an illustration of fish, lemon and parsley not present in the pack, and according to the Food Standards Committee report illustrations such at this should not be shown.

Similar criticisms were made about the illustrations on various other products.

The label of an ice cream powder bore an illustration of pink ice cream and a cherry, the carton of an aspic jelly showed an egg and various other foods, a tin of corned beef included olives, parsley, tomatoes and lettuce, and the illustration on a can of pork luncheon meat included tomato and parsley.

Complaint was received regarding the unpleasant odour of a Cornish pasty, although this could not be detected on receipt at the laboratory. The filling however, contained 150,000,000 bacteria per gramme which is many times that which one should find, but in view of the age of the sample and the conditions under which it had been kept, it was impossible to express any opinion about what exactly the pasty was like when purchased.

A steak and kidney pie was also alleged to have an unpleasant smell and taste on heating, and this was confirmed. A microbiological count on the meat portion showed 2,600,000 per gramme, and it was probable that the pie had been exposed before sale for too long a period during hot weather.

A green discolouration on the exterior portion of a sausage was due to iron. It was thought that the casing was a deep frozen sheep's casing, and these are generally imported in a deep frozen condition surrounded by salt, and if the tops of the barrels are nailed down, a nail is sometimes found touching a piece of casing.

Some pork chipolatas contained 240 parts per million of sulphur dioxide without a disclosure, whereas the presence of preservative must be declared. Some canned pork sausages listed among the ingredients "ruskit" which should properly be described as "rusk," and there was no mention of added salt although the sausage contained 1.5 per cent.

The illustration on the label and the description "Guavas in Syrup" indicated that the guavas were not peeled although they had been skinned, and some indication of this should have been given on the label.

A product described as "Fresh Cheese Curd" contained no fat, and therefore must be called "Skimmed Milk Cheese Curd" and not "Cheese Curd."

A sample of glucose was reported as inferior because it contained an excess of moisture which is lost on drying and the solubility in alcohol was unsatisfactory.

A sweetening solution contained 210 parts per million of benzoic acid and contravened the Preservatives in Food Regulations since there is no provision for the presence of benzoic acid in products of this type. A follow up sample contained 160 parts per million benzoic acid.

A greenish discolouration on some canned pilchards in tomato sauce was due to the natural colour on the pilchard's skin, but it may have been aggravated by iron resulting from the corrosion of the tinplate as analysis showed the pilchards to contain 142 parts per million of iron, and more care should be taken in canning this product.

Complaint material present in some peanuts consisted of fairly large pieces of peanut matted together with fatty oil and mixed with an appreciable quantity of fine carbonised peanut material, probably scraped up from the bottom of the frying pan. Again, the manufacturers should have exercised more care with the product.

Some Epsom Salts complied with the requirements of the British Pharmacopoeia, but omitted to disclose the quantity contained in the carton, and therefore failed to comply with the requirements of the Weights and Measures Act.

THOMAS McLACHLAN.

FOOD LEGISLATION IN 1969

The year 1969 has been comparatively free from fresh legislation and probably the most important letter issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food was a circular letter stating that as a result of representations made to the Ministry the Labelling of Food Regulations, 1967, would be amended and that, in the meantime any foods labelled in accordance with either the 1953 Order, or the 1967 Regulations should be treated as satisfactory. The new regulations will be consolidating regulations and include regulations affecting claims and misleading descriptions. It is to be hoped that an opportunity will be taken to clean up certain anachronisms in the existing regulations, such as the fact that it is unnecessary to declare the composition of curry powder though there are several different types of curry powder on sale, whereas it is obligatory, if mixed herbs or mixed spices are present to more than 1 per cent in any food, for the composition of the herbs or spices to be declared. Your analyst's experience is that to more than 1 per cent in any food, for the composition of the powder, though the purity of the spices of a mixed spice may not be as good as those of a good curry powder.

Antibiotics in Foods. On the 18th September, the Ministry issued a letter asking for information regarding the use of nisin, tetracyclines, and nystatin in foods. Nisin is at present permitted in cheese, clotted cream, and any canned food. It prevents the development of spores of pathogenic bacteria in canned foods and since it occurs naturally in certain foods there would appear to be no reason why its use should be stopped. The use of tetracyclines for fish preservation is different in that the tetracyclines are used for the treatment of human ailments and it is practically impossible to distribute tetracyclines evenly on fish, even by adding it to the water used for making ice, so that there would appear to be no reason why its use should be permitted. Your analyst has no information regarding the advisability of the use of nystatin. In general, however, your analyst believes that no antibiotic used for human treatment should be employed for the treatment of animals used for human food, for supplements to animal feeds, or for the preservation of food. There is always the risk of the development either of immunity or hypersensitivity, or both.

The Artificial Sweeteners in food Regulations, 1969, and the Soft Drinks (Amendment) Regulations, 1969, resulted from the fact that towards the end of the year there was a sudden scare about the use of cyclamates for sweetening foods, especially soft drinks. Whether this alarm was necessary or not remains to be seen, but it is extremely difficult to place the safety of everything used for food in its true perspective. Some doubt has now arisen about the use of butylated hydroxytoluene as an anti-oxidant for fats and

the Ministry has asked for any information that can be given in this matter. One's chief regret must be that with modern methods of food production and storage the use of artificial anti-oxidants, preservatives, colours, and stabilisers should not only be useful, but essential.

The Meat (Sterilisation) Regulations, 1969, result from the precautions necessary to see that contaminated meat shall not reach the public by direct or indirect means. It is now necessary for all knacker meat and meat which is unfit for human consumption, other than rabbit or hare meat, whether home killed or imported, to be sterilised before entering the normal chain of distribution. This does not affect certain types of meat or meat products, where such processing would make the meat useless for those purposes for which it is required. The Food (Control of Irradiation) (Amendment) Regulations, 1969, permit the sterilisation of food by mild irradiation of food for those people for whom it is essential that all their food be sterilised before consumption and thus prevents the appearance, flavour and texture of the food from being destroyed by overheating.

The Minister issued proposals for the amendment of the Cheese Regulations of which the chief were that milk products other than cheese may be used as ingredients of cheese spreads as they have in fact always been, though the process has been illegal, and that soft cheeses shall, in future, be described by their varietal name in the same manner as hard cheeses. Your analyst has suggested to the Ministry that cheeses, other than those made from cow's milk, should be brought under the control of the Cheese Regulations.

The Food Standards Committee issued a Report on Condensed Milk in which the proposal is put forward that sweetened condensed milks should be known as "condensed" and unsweetened as "evaporated," but whether this would be acceptable to the public is doubtful. There is provision for full cream condensed milk, for condensed skimmed milk, and for condensed partly skimmed milk, but it is recommended that voluntary declarations of fat contents should not be permitted. There is also provision for certain additives, calcium chloride, and the sodium salts of carbonic acid, citric acid and orthophosphoric acid, but no other additives. This modification of the law would appear to require a definition of either additive or stabiliser in any regulations for the purposes of those regulations.

A report on the Use of Antibiotics in Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Medicine was issued during the year by the Joint Committee appointed by the responsible Ministers. From the food standpoint, parts of this report are most important in that they deal with the possibility of immunity and susceptibility being devel-

oped in human beings as a result of the feeding and treatment of animals with antibiotics. As referred to earlier, your analyst has felt for many years that antibiotics used for the treatment of human diseases should not be employed as food additives or for the treatment of diseases in animals used for human food and is glad that this is largely the conclusion reached by the Joint Committee.

THOMAS McLACHLAN.

Article	Number samples examined				Number adulterated etc.			
	Formal	Informal	Complaint	Total	Formal	Informal	Complaint	Total
Advocaat	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Beverage, Cereal	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Bread	—	—	3	3	—	—	3	3
Breadcrumbs	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	1
Cakes, Choc. Eclairs	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
CEREALS								
Cornflour	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Custard Powder	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Flour	—	4	—	4	—	—	—	—
Rice	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
Cheese	—	5	—	5	—	1	—	1
Cheese, Spread	—	3	—	3	—	—	—	—
Coffee, Extract	—	5	—	5	—	—	—	—
Coffee, Dandelion	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Colouring	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Confectionery	—	10	—	10	—	—	—	—
Convenience Meals	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
Cream, Canned	—	4	—	4	—	—	—	—
Dessert, Powder	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Dessert, Prepared	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
EDIBLE FATS								
Butter	—	5	—	5	—	—	—	—
Cooking Oil	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Dripping	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
Margarine	—	3	—	3	—	—	—	—
FISH								
Bottled	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
Cakes	—	5	—	5	—	—	—	—
Canned	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	1
Paste	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
Spread	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—

Article	Number samples examined				Number adulterated etc.			
	Formal	Informal	Complaint	Total	Formal	Informal	Complaint	Total
FRUIT								
Bottled	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Canned	—	2	—	2	—	1	—	1
Dried	—	6	—	6	—	—	—	—
Filling	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Fresh	—	34	—	34	—	—	—	—
Juice	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Hops	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Ice Cream	—	3	—	3	—	—	—	—
Ice Cream Powder	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	1
Jelly, Aspic	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	1
Jelly, Table, Sugarless	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Marzipan	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Mayonnaise	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
MEAT PRODUCTS								
Beefburgers	—	5	—	5	—	—	—	—
Brawn	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Canned	—	6	—	6	—	2	—	2
Cornish Pasty	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	1
Minced Meat	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
Paste	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
Pate	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Pie	—	2	1	3	—	—	1	1
Potted	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Sausages	—	14	1	15	—	2	1	3
Suet, Shredded	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
MILK								
Condensed	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Evaporated	—	4	—	4	—	1	—	1
Fresh	46	—	1	47	—	—	—	—
Longlife	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Skim. Milk Powder	—	5	—	5	—	—	—	—
Substitute,								
Coffee Flavoured	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
Topping	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
Yoghourt	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Molasses	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Mushroom Powder	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—

Article	Number samples examined				Number adulterated etc.			
	Formal	Informal	Complaint	Total	Formal	Informal	Complaint	Total
NUTS								
Almonds, Ground	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Peanuts	—	1	1	2	—	—	1	1
Pectin	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Pickles	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
PRESERVES								
Honey	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Jam	—	5	—	5	—	—	—	—
Mincemeat	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Pudding, Xmas	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Sauces	—	3	—	3	—	—	—	—
SOFT DRINKS								
Lemon Drink	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
Lime Juice Cordial	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Mixed Fruit Drink	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Orange Squash	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
Raisin Flav. Cordial	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Tablets & Powder	—	1	1	2	—	—	—	—
Spice, Curry Powder	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
SPIRITS								
Brandy	4	—	—	4	—	—	—	—
Gin	6	—	—	6	—	—	—	—
Rum	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Whisky	9	—	—	9	—	—	—	—
Sweeteners, Artificial	1	3	—	4	1	1	—	2
Tea	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Toffee Apples	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Tomatoes, Canned	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Tomatoes, Fresh	—	6	—	6	—	—	—	—
Tomato, Paste	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
VEGETABLES								
Canned	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
Coleslaw	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Cooked Beetroot	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Curried Cabbage	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Dehydrated	—	4	—	4	—	—	—	—
Salted Cabbage	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Vinegar, Malt	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—

Article	Number samples examined				Number adulterated etc.			
	Formal	Informal	Complaint	Total	Formal	Informal	Complaint	Total
DRUGS								
Antihistamine Tabs.	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Antiseptics	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
Aspirin Tablets	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Aspirin Compound Tablets	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Cold & Cough Remedies	—	4	—	4	—	—	—	—
Diarrhoea Remedies	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
Epsom Salts	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	1
Effervescent Tablets	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Expectorant Linctus	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Fever Mixture	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Ferrous Sulphate Tablets	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Glucose	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	1
Glycerin, Honey & Lemon	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Health Salts	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Herb Candy	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Indigestion Remedies	—	4	—	4	—	—	—	—
Laxatives	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
Milk of Magn. Tabs.	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Multivitamin Tablets	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Nasal Drops	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Nerve Tonic	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Pain Relieving Tabs.	—	5	—	5	—	—	—	—
Pain Relieving Tablets, Infants	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Parrish's Chem. Food	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Slimming Tablets	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Throat Lozenges	—	3	—	3	—	—	—	—
Travel Sickness Tabs.	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Total	70	262	10	342	1	13	8	22

ACTION TAKEN REGARDING UNSATISFACTORY SAMPLES

Of the 22 samples adversely commented on by the Public Analyst, 7 were thought not to be contraventions of the Food and Drugs Act and 1 of these was forwarded to the Weights and Measures Department for consideration under the Trades Description Act. The remaining 15 were dealt with as follows:

Sausages:	Attention of manufacturer drawn to complaint.
Peanuts:	Attention of manufacturer drawn to complaint.
Pork Chipolata Sausages:	Notice regarding preservative displayed in shop at subsequent inspection.
Fresh Cheese Curd:	Public Analyst's opinion passed to manufacturers. This sample was taken from manufacturers premises, the commodity is used in the manufacture of a food and not offered for sale to the public as sampled.
Bread:	Attention of bakers drawn to Public Analyst's findings.
Bread:	No action.
Pilchards in Tomato Sauce:	Matters taken up with canners in South Africa through importers.
Canned Pork Sausages:	Manufacturers have agreed to alter label.
Bread:	Complaint taken up with manufacturers.
Steak and Kidney Pie:	Bad stock rotation, retailers undertook to re-emphasise the importance of this to staff.
Evaporated Milk:	Attention of canners drawn to Public Analyst's findings.
Cornish Pasty:	No action, not possible to establish the complaint was justified.
Glucose:	A formal follow-up sample was found to be satisfactory.
Sweetening Solution: (2 Samples)	Prosecution authorised but not proceeded with as manufacturers undertook to withdraw product from market.

